THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) From among the 20 Nationalised Banks the Chairmen and Managing Directors of five banks visited their banks' branches abroad in the year 1985. The Banks concerned have reported that the visits of their chief executives have helped their foreign branches in their operations.

Profit by foreign branches of nationalised banks

574. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total profit earned by 147 foreign branches of the nationalised banks in the year 1985;

(b) whether there is any proposal to bring all the foreign branches of the nationalised banks under one company in view of the heavy losses; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) As at the end of 1985, there were 138 branches of 12 public sector banks operating in foreign countries. Some of the public sector banks are yet to finalise their Annual Accounts.

The proforma of Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet prescribed under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 do not contain information relating to individual branches including foreign branches.

(b) and (c) The performance of the overseas branches of public sector banks is continually reviewed by the Reserve Bank of India on an 'ongoing' basis and appropriate steps are considered and taken from time to time to improve the performance.

Set-off in excise tariff allowed to manufacturers

575. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the manufacturers who were using items covered under Excise Tariff 68 (last year) were allowed set-off on these items ;

(b) whether the manufacturers continue to get this set-off in the current year ; and

(c) if not, how much additional reveunue has been provided in the Budget proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) Excise duty paid on components and inputs under the erstwhile Tariff Item 68 was allowed as set-off when used in the manufacture of final products on which exicse duty was payable.

(b) With the abolition of Tariff Item 68 under the new Tariff, this set-off is no longer available. However, manufacturers will be able to avail of credit, as permissible under rule 56A and the MODVAT scheme.

(c) No additional revenue has been taken on account of the aforesaid changes.

Welfare of cine workers

576. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what are the basic reasons for transferring the work of welfare of cine workers to the Labour Ministry ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a national Tripartite Committee is being constituted by Government

to look into the expansion of welfare measures and Growth of industrial management relations; and

(c) if so, what are the terms of reference of the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Administration of the Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981 and other allied Acts have been transferred to the Ministry of Labour as the subject matter of these Acts basically relates to the functions assigned to the Ministry of Labour.

(b) and (c) The Central Advisory Committee which is of tripartite nature, has been constituted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under the Cine-Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981. The Central Advisory Committee is to co-ordinate the work of the Advisory Committee and to advise the Central Government on any matter arising out of the administration of the Act.

Saudi ban on import of livestock and meat from India

577. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Saudi Arabia has lifted the ban imposed on import of livestock and meat from India on account of foot and mouth diseases prevalent among animals; and

(b) if not, what steps Government have taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia imposed a ban on import of Live Buffalo and Buffalo meat from India on account of prevalence of rinderpest disease in Indian cattle. The ban has not yet been lifted.

(b) Quarantine of Buffaloes for a period of 21 days has been made compulsory prior to their exports. During the period of quarantine the Buffaloes are vaccinated against rinderpest and foot and mouth disease. The animals are also tested for tuberculosis and brucellosis.

Pre-shipment quality control has been prescribed for export of meat. Every consignment is now subjected to laboratory tests to ensure bacteriological quality of meat. India had earlier been classified by the FAO as an area where "disease is much reduced but still exists" in regard to rinderpest. The matter was taken up with FAO and India has since been classified in the category "low sporadic occurrence confined to certain regions".

The measures taken by India have been brought to the notice of the Saudi authorities with a view to having the aban lifted. The matter was taken up during the recently concluded meeting of the Indo-Saudi Joint Commission held on 21st & 22nd April, 1986 and the Saudi side have agreed to consider the issue favourably.

Participation of industrial houses in TFAI's business shows

578. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the Industrial Houses that participated in the business shows organised by the Trade Fair Authority of India during 1985-86 ; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to involve more industrial Houses in the programme of TFAI ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) A statement is attached. [*See* Appendix CXXXVIII Annexure No. 13]